

# Creel Survey

May 23, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

## Salmon/Steelhead

**Elochoman River from mouth to West Fork and Grays River from mouth to South Fork and West Fork from mouth to hatchery intake/footbridge** – Under permanent rules, open to fishing for hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 4<sup>th</sup> this year).

**The entire South Fork Toutle River and the Green River from the mouth to the 2800 Road Bridge** – Will open to fishing for hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June as outlined in the 2011/2012 Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet. Beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>, bait may be used. All tributaries to the South Fork Toutle and Green rivers will remain closed to all fishing.

**Cowlitz River** – Anglers are catching a mixture of adult and jack spring Chinook, primarily in the upper river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 533 spring chinook adults, 349 jacks, 21 winter-run steelhead, and 78 summer-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 46 spring chinook adults, 217 jacks, and six winter-run steelhead into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood and 62 spring chinook adults and 98 jacks into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,620 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 23. Water visibility is eight feet.

**Kalama River** – Salmon catches are light. Just 11 adult spring chinook (including 3 unmarked fish) had returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery through May 20. The escapement goal is 400 fish for hatchery brood stock.

**Lewis River** – Light effort and catch. Just 85 adults had returned to the Merwin Dam trap through May 20 though hatchery personnel have only had sporadic access to the trap due to high river flows. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,300 fish.

**East Fork Lewis River from the mouth to 400 feet below Horseshoe Falls (except closures around various falls) and the Washougal River from the mouth to Salmon Falls Bridge** – Under permanent rules these areas will be open to fishing with bait for hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 4<sup>th</sup> this year).

**Washougal River** – Boat anglers are catching some hatchery summer run steelhead. Slow from the bank. River is backed up from the high Columbia flows all the way to the Sandy Swimming Hole.

**Wind River** – Boat anglers at the mouth and bank anglers in the gorge are catching spring chinook, a mixture of adults and jacks. Bank anglers at the mouth were reported catching some fish. A few 4 adult daily limits were reported.

Through May 22, a total of 68 spring chinook had returned to Carson National Fish Hatchery. Escapement reports are available at <http://www.fws.gov/gorgefish/returns.html>. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,500 fish.

**Drano Lake** – Boat anglers are catching some adult and jack spring chinook. The bank angling area is inundated due to high water levels. **Anglers should note the Wednesday closures have been extended through all of June.**

**White Salmon River** – No report on angling success. The bank angling area is inundated due to high water levels.

**Klickitat River** – River was blown out earlier last week but some adult and jack spring chinook were caught later in the week.

Under permanent rules, the Klickitat River from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream will open 7 days per week beginning June 1. The salmon daily limit will be 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Two hatchery steelhead may also be retained. Release wild chinook.

The section from 400 feet upstream from # 5 fishway upstream to boundary markers below the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery will open to fishing for hatchery chinook jacks and hatchery steelhead beginning June 1 under permanent rules. Again, release wild chinook.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – We sampled 1,348 salmonid anglers (including 166 boats) with 78 adult and 244 jack spring chinook and 21 steelhead. 59 (76%) of the adult and 192 (79%) of the jacks were kept as were 17 (81%) of the steelhead.

We sampled 41 (69%) of the adult and 124 (65%) of the jacks and 7 (41%) of the steelhead kept. 32 (78%) of the adults and 123 (99%) of the jacks sampled were upriver origin based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

On the Saturday May 21 effort flight count, there were 141 salmonid boats and 656 bank anglers observed.

## **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – No sturgeon creel data from the estuary is currently available. We're picking up the port samplers' data today.

Sturgeon retention was allowed from the mouth upstream to the sturgeon spawning sanctuary boundary Navigation Marker 82 line) on Saturday. There were 61 private boats and a few charters plus a dozen bank anglers counted during the Saturday effort flight count. Bank anglers at Kalama were catching some legals.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat and bank anglers are catching some legals.

## **Walleye, bass, and other warm water game fish**

**Silver Lake near Castle Rock** – From Stace Kelsey *Inland Fish Program Region 5 WDFW*: The bite is on; however, the crappie are very small and what I saw was not of legal 9" min. size to keep.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat and bank anglers are catching some walleye and bass.

## **Shad**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - 55 bank anglers and no boats were counted during the Saturday effort flight count. Boat anglers in the gorge caught a couple fish earlier in the week. Counts at Bonneville Dam counts are reaching a few hundred fish a day.

## **Trout**

**Mineral Lake** – Between May 16-18, planted with 7,296 catchable size rainbows. No report on angling success.

**Kress Lake near Kalama** – Planted with 3,027 catchable size rainbows and 4 surplus hatchery adult winter run steelhead May 13. No report on angling success.

**Merwin Reservoir** – From Stace Kelsey: Slowing down and taking a bit longer to get limits.

Plants of catchable size rainbows scheduled for SW WA streams that open June 4 (note: see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/> for actual plants) –

- Skate Creek – 7,500 (June-Aug.)
- Tilton River – 8,000 (June-Sept.)
- Canyon Creek (Clark Co.) – 5,000
- Bird Creek (Klickitat Co.) -1,500
- Bowman Creek (Klickitat Co.) – 1,000
- Outlet Creek (Klickitat Co.) – 1,000
- Spring Creek (Klickitat Co.) – 3,000
- Little White Salmon River (Skamania Co.) – 3,000

Plants of catchable size rainbows and other trout scheduled for SW WA lakes (again see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/> for actual plants):

- Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) – 20,000 (June-Aug.) Opens June 1 for hatchery trout and hatchery salmon.
- Mayfield – 30,000 (April-Sept.)
- Council – 4,000
- Goose (5,000 browns and 6,000 cutthroats in Spring and 4,000 cutthroats in Fall)
- Takhlahk – 4,000

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	1040	587								1,627	81.4%	Apr. 30	2,000	
The Dalles <sup>2</sup>	65	6	16	27						114	38.0%	Apr. 30	300	
John Day	187	90	163	92						532	106.4%	Apr. 30	500	
Current month sampled sturgeon kept:														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep					
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	145	71								216		May 22		
The Dalles <sup>2</sup>	11	1	5	5	3					25		May 22		
John Day	37	10	29	15						91		May 22		
<sup>1</sup> Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention Feb 19.														
<sup>2</sup> John Day Pool closed to sturgeon retention April 10.														
Harvest estimates are updated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.														

## WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

May 16 - 22, 2011

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						18							198	216
The Dalles Pool	38	18		2		11	3	8	3	1			14	25
John Day Pool						20							71	91
Total	38	18		2		49	3	8	3	1			283	332
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool													2	2
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead													2	
The Dalles Pool				2		79							32	111
Chinook				2		69							24	93
Coho														
Steelhead						10							8	18
John Day Pool						7							8	15
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						7							8	15
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													5	5
The Dalles Pool		8	2			5	4	7	4	4			885	890
John Day Pool													179	179
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	8	7	1			9	1	2	8				4	13
John Day Pool													2	2

<sup>1</sup> Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	137%	none	28%	222%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.52	none	2.57	1.60
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	0.86	0.10
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none

Salmonid										Chinook											
Month/Week	Bank			Released			Steelhead				#	Boat	Kept			Released			Steelhead		
May 16-22	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>		<u>Boats</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>		
Bonneville	1	381	23	133	12	35	1	0	0		12	26	0	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Camas/Washougal	2	37	1	1	0	1	0	0	0		9	16	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
	3										43	97	8	9	1	1	0	0	0		
Vancouver	4	165	2	11	2	3	0	1	0		12	26	4	4	0	3	0	0	1 legal stg. rel.		
Woodland	5	120	6	16	0	5	1	2	0		25	51	5	4	0	0	0	0	0		
Kalama	6	129	1	3	0	2	3	0	0												
Cowlitz	7																				
Longview	8	117	2	3	0	0	4	0	0		63	145	5	4	2	2	7	0	0		
Cathlamet	9	28	2	3	0	0	1	1	0		2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
private boats/bank charter	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
	10																				
Total		983	37	170	14	46	10	4	0		166	365	22	22	5	6	7	0	1 legal stg. rel.		

Sturgeon														
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Sublegals</u>	<u>Legals</u>	<u>Oversize</u>	<u>Legals</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Sublegals</u>	<u>Legals</u>	<u>Oversize</u>	<u>Legals</u>		
		<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Boats</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Kept</u>		
Bonneville	1													
Camas/Washougal	2						2	7	14	0	1	0		
	3													
Vancouver	4						1	1	2	0	0	0		
Woodland	5	1	0	0	0	0								
Kalama	6	6	5	0	1	1	3	7	0	0	0	0		
Cowlitz	7													
Longview	8	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0		
Cathlamet	9													
charter	10													
Cathlamet	10													
Total		9	5	0	1	1	8	20	16	0	1	0		

Shad									
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	
		<u>Anglers</u>			<u>Boats</u>	<u>Anglers</u>			
Bonneville	1	3	0	0	1	6	2	0	
Camas/Washougal	2								
	3								
Vancouver	4								
Woodland	5								
Kalama	6								
Cowlitz	7								
Longview	8								
Cathlamet	9								
Chinook/Elochoman	10								
Total		3	0	0	1	6	2	0	

Walleye									
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	
		<u>Anglers</u>			<u>Boats</u>	<u>Anglers</u>			
Bonneville	1								
Camas/Washougal	2				1	2	0	0	
	3								
Vancouver	4								
Woodland	5								
Kalama	6								
Cowlitz	7								
Longview	8								
Cathlamet	9								
Chinook/Elochoman	10								
Total		0	0	0	1	2	0	0	



Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - May 16-22.

Merwin Reservoir      16 boat anglers with 22 kokanee kept and 3 released plus 1 rainbow released.